

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) From 1.1.92 to 31.3.92, 17033 raids have been conducted, 521 persons arrested, 955 persons prosecuted, 24 persons convicted and goods worth Rs. 142.82 lakhs confiscated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The rate of inflation during the period 28.12.91 to 21.3.92 has been estimated at 1.1% above the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) As per reports received 1659 persons were arrested.

(d) In addition to the monetary and fiscal steps taken by the Govt., edible oils were imported to increase their availability and steps taken to revamp the P.D.S. The retail prices of cotton sarees/ dhoties have been reduced to the level of July, 1990. The prices of electric bulbs have been reduced. The sale of economy pack quality tea, Janta soap has been commenced. The essential commodities have been spared from additional levies both in the Central Budget as well as in Railway Budget. A Cabinet Committee under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister has been regularly monitoring the prices of essential commodities and taking the necessary steps for keeping the prices under control.

Hiring of HEMM by Coalmines

6526. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hiring of Heavy Earth-moving machinery has been stopped in a phased manner in the coalmines of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. as recommended by the Expert Group appointed by the Government;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether factors responsible for underutilization of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. owned Heavy-earth moving machinery have been eliminated; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof;

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Hiring of privately owned HEMM in Eastern Coalfields Limited has been stopped w.e.f. 1.4.1991.

(c) and (d). The factors attributable to low utilisation of HEMM in ECL have been identified and steps have been initiated to improve the utilisation.

Non-payment of Minimum wages to labourers

6527. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of non-payment of minimum wages to labourers under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana have been brought to the notice of the Union Government by some of the State Governments and by Government of Madhya Pradesh in particular;

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken in the matter;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the rates of wages to the labourers under J.R.Y.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No State Government has brought to the notice of the Government of India cases of non-payment of minimum wages to the workers engaged under the Yojana.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Workers engaged under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) are paid the wages as prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act. The powers to fix the wages under the Act vest in the State Governments. Government of India is not aware whether the State Governments are proposing to increase the wage rates.

Execution of Self-Employment Programmes

6528. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the marketing problem of the produces by the tiny entrepreneurs in the rural areas is a bottleneck in the execution of the self-employment programmes;

(b) the specific steps taken by the Union Government in cooperation with the State Governments to remove these bottlenecks;

(c) whether the nationalised banks have fulfilled the expectation in the matter of financing the self-employment schemes; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to channelise finance for such rural development schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the Union Government to remove the difficulties of marketing of produce of benefi-

ciaries assisted under self employment programmes.

(1) The State Governments have been advised to identify bodies for the districts as nodal agencies for providing infrastructural support and backward and forward linkages to self-employed beneficiary families.

(2) Where no bodies can be identified, the State Governments have been advised developing institutions such as districts Supply and Marketing Societies to take care of the input requirements and marketing problems. Funds earmarked for infrastructure development under IRDP can be utilised for developing such assistance.

(3) CAPART is organising Gram Shree Melas for marketing of the products of IRDP, TRYSEM and DWCR.

(c) During the year 1990-91 banks and provided Rs. 1190 crores credit to the IRDP beneficiaries as against Rs. 668.15 crore provided as subsidy by the Central and State Governments. The per family investment was Rs. 6422. At the macro level mobilisation of credit for IRDP is satisfactory but at the field level there are some problems such as inadequate unit cost, under-financing, meeting working capital requirement cumbersome documentation and procedures, delay in sanction and disbursement, non-issue of loan pass books.

(d) The following steps have been taken to channelise finance for rural development schemes:

(i) A High level committee on Credit for IRDP has been constituted which includes representatives from the Government of India, State Governments and Banks to review credit arrangements. State Level Bankers' Commit-